

REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-13 are pending.

Claim 3 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) for being an improper dependent claim.

Claims 1-2 and 4-6 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sandegren (US Patent No. 6,512,930) in view of Gutfreund (US Patent No. 6,192,394).

Claims 7-13 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sandegren, Gutfreund, and Daly (US Patent No. 6,393,014).

Claims 9 and 13 are canceled without disclaimer or prejudice.

Claims 1-8 and 9-12 are amended.

New claims 14-22 are added.

Thus, claims 1-8, 9-12 and 14-22 remain pending for reconsideration, which is respectfully requested.

No new matter has been added in this Amendment. The foregoing rejections are hereby traversed.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Examiner objects to claim 3 for being an improper dependent claim. In particular, the Examiner asserts that dependent claims 2 and 3 are the same. Dependent claims 2 and 3 are amended taking into consideration the Examiner's comments. Support for the claim amendments can be found, for example, in page 8, lines 6-18 of the present Application. Withdrawal of the claim objections is respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

THE PRESENT INVENTION

The present invention allows reporting a user status to participants in a status notification system when the user cannot directly participate in the status notification system. For example, a user cannot participate in a status notification system because of a business trip or out of the office for some other reason, such that the user cannot access the status notification system. As shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, the system of the present invention has (1) a

user status generating device 2 on a PC1, such as a PC in a hotel room (i.e., claimed "first information terminal"), that can communicate with a device of the user, such as a mobile terminal, when the user uses the first information terminal or the user device can be accessed by the first information terminal (PC1); and (2) a transmitting device 3 on a mobile terminal M (i.e., claimed "mobile terminal") that the user carries as the user device; and (3) a receiving device 4 on a PC2 (i.e., claimed "second information terminal"). The user status generating device 2 generates the status information of the user when the first information terminal can communicate with the device of the user. For example, if the user status generating device 2 can access the user mobile terminal 3 and the user is using the first information terminal, the user status generating device 2 can generate a user status based upon a status of the first information terminal being used by the mobile terminal user. For example, user status information, such as "You have a lot of mail," "printing file," or location information, etc., which depend on which application has been installed in the first information terminal (PC1), can be generated based upon an application used by the user at the first information terminal. In other words, the first information terminal (PC1) can detect the status of the user in detail because it can be set up to adapt to its environment. The generated user status information is sent to the user device by wired or wireless communication. Further, the user device transmits the generated user status information to the second information terminal (PC2) so that it becomes available for the participants in the status notification system. Therefore, in contrast to the prior art user status notification systems, in the present invention a user status generating device determines a status of a user and transmits the user status to a device of the user, such as a mobile terminal of the user.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE CLAIMED INVENTION AND THE PRIOR ART

Conventional status notification systems, such as ICQ, have a generating device, a transmitting device, a receiving device, and a display device. In the conventional status notification systems, the user status generating and transmitting device are implemented in a computing device, such as mobile phone, and the user status receiving and display device are implemented in a computing device, such as the mobile phone in a user status receiving mode. However, in the present invention, the user status generating and transmitting device are separated and not implemented in a single computing device. According to the present invention, the claimed "first information terminal" implements a user status generating device. The claimed "mobile terminal" is another computing device that implements a user status transmitting device, which receives and transmits a status of a user of the mobile terminal from

the first information terminal. The user mobile terminal transmits the received user status to the claimed "second information terminal" for output. See, FIG. 1 of the present application.

More particularly, according to the present invention, typically, the computer having the user status generating device (i.e., "first information terminal") and the computer having the user status transmitting device (i.e., "mobile terminal") can establish an "ad hoc" connection (see, page 16, lines 21-25 of the present Application). The user status generating device (i.e., "first information terminal") may be installed in a computer at an office that one is visiting or the like, and the user status transmitting device (i.e., "mobile terminal") is portable. Accordingly, the generating device detects a user's status and a notification of the user's status is made via the mobile phone to another person (i.e., "second information terminal") who is interested in the user's status, such as the user's supervisor.

PRIOR ART

Sandegren & Gutfreund

The Examiner relies on Sandegren for rejecting the claimed status notification system and relies on Gutfreund for disclosing collaboration with arbitrary users such that a status notification system can be used with respect to an arbitrary user (see, pages 2-3 of the Office Action). Sandegren discloses techniques for informing a mobile communication system user of the status of another user in the system (Abstract). In Sandegren, the user status generating device is the user's wireless device, such as a mobile telephone 201 (column 4, lines 24-51), executing a wireless on-line notification (WOLN) application (column 4, lines 52-55). See also, FIGS. 2a-2c. However, Sandegren's user mobile telephone 201 does not receive a status of the mobile telephone 201 user from another device, but generates the status of the mobile terminal user. None of Sandegren's WOLN service descriptions, nor Gutfreund, contemplate the present invention's claimed configuration of receiving a status of a user of the mobile telephone 201, 101 (Sandegren's FIGS. 1a, 2a) from a user status generating device (see, for example, column 7, lines 20-32).

Independent claims 1, 4 and 6-13 are amended to only improve the recitations of the patentably distinguishing features of the present invention and the claim amendments are not narrowing claim amendments to overcome the prior art. Support for the claim amendments can be found, for example, in FIGS. 1 and 2; and page 16 to page 25 of the present Application.

Independent claims 1 and 3 are directed to a notification system.

Independent claims 6 and 10 are directed to a user status generating device

transmitting a user status to the user's mobile terminal.

Independent claims 7-8 and 11-12 are directed to a user mobile terminal receiving a status of the user, according to the present invention.

Sandegren discloses a conventional status notification system from which the claimed invention differs, because Sandegren does not disclose or suggest the recitation,

determining status of a user using a first information terminal;

directly transmitting the status of the user from the first information terminal to a mobile terminal of the user ...

transmitting the received user status in real-time from the user mobile terminal to a predetermined second information terminal via a network ... (claim 1)

In other words, in the present invention a user of mobile terminal receives a status of the user from another device.

Even if a user status generating device ("first information terminal") is downsized and becomes portable together with a user status transmitting device, as in the conventional status notification system, the present invention's user status when generated by a device at each location (e.g., an office where one is visiting, a hotel room where one is staying, etc.) differs from the user status generated by the portable device of Sandegren, because the present invention's user status generating device ("first information terminal") generates more detailed user status information pertaining to the environment of each place. As a benefit, the user status generating device of the present invention can fit into a specific environment and thus knows the environment better to sense the user status more accurately. For example, if a user is on a business trip is using a PC at the office the user is visiting, this PC knows the user's status better than a mobile phone in the user's pocket. As another example, a user status generating device ("first information terminal") can be mounted in a car and connected to a LAN in the car. The first information terminal and a user status-transmitting device ("mobile terminal") can connect via, for example, Bluetooth. When the user on a business trip gets into the car with the user's mobile terminal, the first information terminal obtains information from other devices in the car and generates status information, such as "driving a car." If the first information terminal is connected to a car navigation system, it can also generate more specific information pertaining to the car navigation system, such as "driving in the Tokyo area." The user mobile terminal receives these status information of the user of mobile terminal from the first information terminal and transmits the received user status information to a person

interested in the status of the user on the business trip.

CLAIMS 6 and 10

In contrast to Sendegren, claims 6 and 10 are directed to a user status generating device reciting, "identification means for obtaining from the running application identification information of a user of the running application; decision means for determining a status of the user based on a status of the running application; and transmitting means for directly connecting with an external mobile terminal of the user ... and transmitting the user identification information and the user status to the external mobile terminal of the user" (claim 6).

CLAIMS 7-8 AND 11-12

The Examiner also asserts, on page 5 of the Office Action regarding claims 7-13, that Sandegren's HLR/WOLN database can provide authorization means. However, amended claim 7 recites, "authorization means for authorizing the user of the mobile terminal based on the received mobile terminal user identification information" (claim 7). Therefore, in the present invention, a user of the mobile terminal is authorized depending upon user identification information received by the user's mobile terminal (i.e., in other words, the user's mobile terminal determines if a user identification information received by the mobile terminal belongs to the user of the mobile terminal to ensure that user status received by the mobile terminal is a status of the user of the mobile terminal). Sandegren in column 7, lines 34-47, only contemplates authorizing whether a user can receive another user's status.

NEW CLAIMS 14-22

New dependent claims 14-22 recite other patentably distinguishing features of the invention not disclosed or suggested by the relied upon references or are at least patentably distinguishing due to their dependencies from the independent claims.

Support for claims 14 and 17 can be found, for example, on page 16, line 17 to page 17, line 2; and page 26, lines 19-24.

Support for claim 15 can be found, for example, on page 18, lines 10-14.

Support for claim 16 can be found, for example, on page 8, lines 6-18.

Support for claim 18 can be found, for example, on page 27, lines 16-18.

Support for claims 19-22 can be found, for example, on page 18, line 15 to page 19, line 16; page 35, line 18 to page 36, line 2; and page 37-38.

Daly

The Examiner appears to rely on Daly for the claimed recitation, "receiving means for directly connecting in real-time with an external information terminal through an electronic information transmission medium" (claim 7). Daly discloses a system transferring data from an IP network to a mobile station on a non-IP network. However, the present invention is directed to the claimed configuration:

receiving means for directly connecting in real-time with an external information terminal through an electronic information transmission medium and receiving identification information and a status of a user of the mobile terminal from the connected external information terminal;

authorization means for authorizing the user of the mobile terminal based on the received mobile terminal user identification information; and

transmitting means for transmitting the received user status via the communication device to the network device based on the authorizing (claim 7, emphasis added).


CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks and the claim amendments, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-8 and 10-12, and allowance of claims 1-8, 10-12 and new claims 14-22 is respectfully requested.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,
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